

Infant Mortality Rates

Infant mortality rates are often used to compare the health and well-being of populations across and within countries: a low rate of infant mortality typically signifies a healthier population.

Calhoun County's infant mortality rate remains higher than the State of Michigan's rate. The three-year (2003-2005) average rate remains twice as high for African Americans (14.1) than Whites (7.7)¹.

	2003	2004	2005
Calhoun ²	8.2	9.8	9.6
Michigan ²	8.5	7.6	7.9
U.S. ³	6.7	6.6	6.8

Rates are per 1,000 live births.

1. 1994- 2005 Michigan Resident Death Files and Michigan Resident Birth Files, Vital Records & Health Data Development Section, Michigan Department of Community Health
<http://www.mdch.state.mi.us/pha/osr/index.asp?id=3>
2. 1989 - 2005 Michigan Resident Death Files and Michigan Resident Birth Files, Epidemiology Services Division, Vital Records and Health Data Development Section, Michigan Department of Community Health.
<http://www.mdch.state.mi.us/pha/osr/Chi/Indx/frame.asp>
3. Provisional Data for 2005, National Vital Statistics Reports, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr54/nvsr54_20.pdf



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The Fetal and Infant Mortality Review program is supported by funds from the United Way of Greater Battle Creek, Battle Creek Community Foundation, and Michigan Public Health Institute.



August 2007

The Calhoun County Public Health Department works to enhance our community's total well-being by promoting healthy lifestyles, protecting health, and preventing disease. Adopted on January 25, 2003 by the Calhoun County Board of Health.

Calhoun County Maternal & Infant Health Task Forces



Calhoun County Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR)

The Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) program is a community approach to improving the health of underserved women and infants through improved access to and enhanced utilization of perinatal, prenatal, and related services. Through individual case review, FIMR examines the social, economic, cultural, health, safety, and system issues related to infant death and determines local factors upon which perinatal and prenatal health system intervention improvement can be based.

By using data to identify factors associated with infant death, the FIMR program is able to provide recommendations for policy development and systems change that address these factors and reduce the rate of death in our most vulnerable population.



Maternal and Infant Health Commission

The Maternal and Infant Health Commission (MIHC) serves as the community action team for FIMR. The goal of the MIHC is to see all babies be born healthy and to thrive. This group works to improve the health of women of childbearing age, improve prenatal care, and reduce infant mortality.

The MIHC has researched the causes and factors associated with infant deaths in Calhoun County. Given the findings, strategies for healthy births and healthy babies are:

- Improve the health of women of childbearing age (preconception care)
- Ensure access to prenatal care
- Decrease unintended pregnancies
- Prevent pre-term deliveries and low birth weight births
- Increase awareness of infant safe sleep practices
- Increase awareness about the facts of breastfeeding



Calhoun County Infant Safe Sleep Coalition

Sleep-related deaths from suffocation/asphyxia, or unsafe sleep environments, are the most easily preventable infant deaths and are the focus of coalition efforts. Our goal is for every baby to sleep in a safe environment.

The Calhoun County Infant Safe Sleep Coalition instituted a campaign to educate parents, healthcare providers, and the community about safe sleep practices.

The goal of the Breastfeeding Coalition is to increase awareness about the facts around breastfeeding allowing women to breastfeed without barriers, health care providers empowerment to support breastfeeding, and access to appropriate lactation support services. This group works with Calhoun County businesses and employers on being breastfeeding friendly.

Breastfeeding Coalition